

Deborah.Easterling

244940

From: Deborah.Easterling
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2013 4:25 PM
To: 'usguardianofold@yahoo.com'
Subject: RE: 16.5 percent rate hike from Duke Power

Dear Ms. Arledge,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your email to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. I am forwarding your email to our Clerk's Office for processing. Your email will become a part of Docket No. 2013-59-E and will be posted on our website under this docket.

Please let me know if you should require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Deborah Easterling
Administrative Assistant

RECEIVED

JUN 28 2013

PSC SC
MAIL / DMS

-----Original Message-----

From: LouAnne Arledge [mailto:usguardianofold@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2013 3:41 PM
To: PSC_Contact
Subject: 16.5 percent rate hike from Duke Power

I have a problem with something that really has an impact on SC. Duke Power is owned by Duke Energy. They are proposing a rate hike that would impact the residential customer by raising the rates by 16.3%. This is something that will affect everyone living in the Upstate. I have done some investigating and I have found information that I feel is disturbing. With the resources of your station, you can probably find other things that I was unable to obtain. What I have found is listed below:

1) Duke energy has contributed to Cintrifuse.

Cintrifuse is located in Cincinnati. It is a program that helps entrepreneurs start business. From what I was able to find, there are no Duke Energy customers there. If there are, I am unable to find that information. Their website <http://www.cintrifuse.com/> lists Duke Energy as one of the contributors. According to a local Cincinnati news station, Duke Energy is one of many investors that have made an initial investment of five million dollars. I wonder how much the subsequent investment amounts will be? The link for this is http://www.wcpo.com/dpp/money/business_news/cintrifuse-names-investors-in-its-40-million-fund-of-funds

2) The next thing I found is the ROE. Duke Energy is allowed 10.5% ROE. The proposed rate will give them 11.5% ROE. This is according to the site located at http://www.bizjournals.com/charlotte/blog/power_city/2013/03/duke-energy-seeks-151-rate-hike-in-sc.html?page=all

3) According to Duke Energy's own website, the reason for the proposed rate hike are upgrades to the security at Oconee Nuclear Power Station, Dan River Combined Cycle Station in Eden, N.C., Cliffside Stream Station Unit 6 in Mooresboro, N.C, and McGuire Nuclear Station, Mecklenburg County, N.C. <http://www.duke-energy.com/news/releases/2013031801.asp> . Duke energy proposed a rate hike in N.C as well, but it was nowhere near what is being proposed here. If the reason for the rate hikes is as given, why ask for different rate hikes in different states?

4) In N.C. the rate hike was postponed because Duke Energy has not done any studies to evaluate the impact this will have on the consumer.

Duke Energy says there are

programs that they set up to help low income families. This is found on their website. The name of the program is AdvanceSC. I went to their website to find out how to qualify and how to apply for this program. I can send you the e-mail I received if you need it. Basically, I was told to go to the Salvation Army. This is suspicious to me since their site says that "Through the Duke Energy Foundation, Duke Energy and its customers in the Carolinas provide financial assistance to South Carolina citizens in great financial need through direct grants to Duke Energy's Share the Warmth, Cooling Assistance and Fan Heat Relief programs. AdvanceSC makes an additional annual allocation of \$650,000 to these public assistance programs to be administered jointly with the existing programs in South Carolina.

Once

funding requirements for the identified public assistance programs are met, the remaining AdvanceSC funds are divided between economic development and manufacturing competitiveness programs." <http://www.advancesc.org/programs/pubassist.asp> .

There have been numerous other states that Duke Energy has tried to have an outrageous rate hike. From what I have been able to find, everyone of them has been rejected or postponed until studies have been conducted. Perhaps if Duke Energy would stop all of the needless spending, and actually wait until the money is there before doing the upgrades, they would not need to have a rate hike of this magnitude. This is a proposal that will affect everyone, no matter who or how much they make. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lou Anne Arledge